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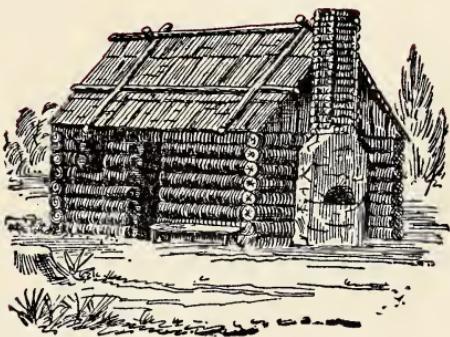
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YEAR BOOK OF THE  
**OLD SETTLERS' ASSOCIATION**

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**JOHNSON COUNTY, IOWA**

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**1915-1916**



**1524725**

**THE OLD SETTLERS' ASSOCIATION  
OF JOHNSON COUNTY, IOWA**

**1915**

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**ANNUAL MEETING OF 1915**

The annual gathering of the old settlers of Johnson County was held on September 18, 1915, at the City Park. The day was bright and clear and all that could be desired. The old settlers came in goodly numbers, considering the changes in dates owing to stormy weather on former days appointed for the gathering. A telegram from Senator Kenyon, the speaker of the day, announced his inability to be present owing to the serious illness of his mother. Fortunately President Thomas H. Macbride of the State University was prevailed upon to give a short but very interesting address, which with the short talks by old settlers, occupied the time and pleased the audience.

The cabins were constantly filled and many complimentary remarks were heard on the architecture and finish of the cabins. The collection of ox yokes, spinning wheels, grain cradles, old time muskets and other pioneer implements was the source of endless stories from the old settlers and a great curiosity to the younger people.

Major Ira J. Alder presented a resolution to the effect that whereas the keys of the old cabins on the fair grounds had been furnished to the Secretary of the Society, the old cabins should be preserved as long as they would stand and as long as the Fair management will permit.

The following officers for the ensuing year were elected:

President.....	W. P. HOHENSCHUH
First Vice-President.....	MILTON REMLEY
Second Vice-President.....	W. T. PRATT
Secretary.....	H. J. WIENEKE
Treasurer.....	O. A. BYINGTON
Necrologist.....	MRS. G. R. IRISH

The collection of dues for the day amounted to \$50.30.

President Hohenschuh appointed the following members of the Executive Committee for the ensuing year: Emery Westcott, S. C. Jones, J. J. Metzger, Miss Elizabeth Irish, John McCollister and Horace Sanders.

The following committees were selected by the Executive Committee: On speakers and editors of the annual, O. A. Byington and Elizabeth Irish; on publication, H. J. Wiencke; on grounds, J. J. Metzger. On motion, Mr. Metzger was authorized to employ two men in preparing for the annual picnic. F. F. Luse and Frank Stackman were appointed official coffee makers.

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(From *Daily Press*)

#### FRIENDS MOURN DEATH OF MRS. MARY O. COLDREN, A BELOVED PIONEER RESI- DENT OF IOWA CITY, IOWA

Sadness reigned in many a home in Iowa City when a message came from Kansas City, Missouri, announcing the death of Mrs. Mary O. Coldren, on January 24, 1915, at the home of her son Stevens A. Coldren in the metropolis.

The remains of this beloved pioneer were brought hither, and the services were held at the Presbyterian church.

Hers was a long and useful life of beautiful service. In Iowa City and Johnson County her memory will be cherished forever. Monuments to her fame, and worth, in the



MRS. MARY O. COLDREN



shape of institutions devoted to eleemosynary causes, rear their crests heavenward, and within voices have been lifted in praiseful song, invoking heaven's blessings upon this good woman.

Today, these voices are sad in cadence, but still they tell of Mrs. Coldren's goodness, and still they are dedicated to prayer and benisons, for many grateful men and women owe the sunshine of their declining days, as they descend the slopes that lead to the Great Hereafter, to this estimable pioneer.

She founded the Mary O. Coldren Home for Aged Women, in Iowa City, the institution that is still doing its noble work for venerable "Mothers in Israel". Her son, Stevens A. Coldren, presented the Home to Iowa City, as a gift to a grand cause, and the dedication was in his mother's name. Mother and son gave much, also, in its support subsequently.

She was very active in arousing the public interest in an effort to house properly and to care for the unfortunate poor and incurably insane at the County Home, beyond the marge of the placid Iowa River, and the fruitage of her splendid efforts many years ago was the erection of the commodious quarters now used for this praiseworthy purpose.

In kindred circles, long and earnestly she labored otherwise. Throughout a quarter of a century she devoted her talents and energies to "The Silent Ministry", an organization whose work was all for the good of the suffering and the needy, whose deserts were greater than their fortunes by far. She was an active member of the Ladies' Improvement League, and the Mother of the Garbage System of Iowa City.

"Sweet Charity" never knew an abler or more active and energetic coadjutor in Iowa City.

Mrs. Coldren was a woman of talents, as well as noble aggressiveness in fields of Christian endeavor.

She was one of the early students of the school which later became the State University of Iowa, as the march of years advanced from the days it was known as the "Normal."

Her ability, following her school days, was recognized by city and county educational authorities, and by the public at large.

Thus she became one of the early and most efficient of the county's teachers. In Iowa City she filled a chair in the Third Ward, where her service as an instructor laid the foundation for the higher education and the entrance into the business and professional field of many of our present successful men and women.

With the greatness of her heart and the nobility of her soul ever finding outlet in service for others she dedicated her mental gifts to the development of ideas and plans for the aid and uplift of others.

She was ever interested in widows, and especially those whose large families made the struggle for existence a problem ofttimes. Likewise, in young women whose paths, without the guiding hand and cheering voice of elder friends, are sometimes shadowed by cruel Fate, Mrs. Coldren was always eager to show interest that crystallized into action.

Again, as illustrated by her services in "The Silent Ministry," the County Home, and the "Mary O. Coldren Home for Aged Women," and other kindred institutions, her devotion to the aged, especially of her own sex, has been conspicuous.

She was a woman of strong religious convictions, but believed that "religion" spelled more than mere words or attendance upon church although she served faithfully in the Presbyterian church also.

Into her life, moreover, she carried the intuitions and inspirations of real religion, and she made her faith synonymous with work.

Thus, into the lives of others she brought brightness, hope, happiness, and good cheer, where erstwhile reigned gloom, despondency, suffering and sorrow.

From infancy to ripe old age, Mrs. Coldren passed her life in the city and county she loved so wholly and truly.

She was born in Stark County, Illinois, March 22, 1840, and was thus 74 years, 10 months, and 1 day of age when summoned to the great beyond.

She was the daughter of Abel and Rosannah Stevens, and was christened Mary Olive Stevens. She removed with her parents to Johnson County when but one year of age, and thereafter Iowa City was her home throughout the seventy-four years that followed.

She was married here on March 26, 1868, to John Coldren, who in after years was one of Johnson County's early and most trustworthy and efficient sheriffs.

To this union were born three children, two of whom survive.

Clymer A. Coldren, who died March 29, 1914, was County Attorney of Muscatine County for a number of years.

Surviving are Stevens A. Coldren of Kansas City, Missouri, one of the most prominent real estate men west of the Mississippi River; and Paul A. Coldren, who has been associated with him in business, in a highly successful manner. All three of these worthy sons of a worthy mother were graduates of the College of Law of the State University of Iowa.

Though death has claimed one of them, he had won his way in the world ere the end came, and had justified the faith that was in the mother who had rightly guided him. The other two sons, having wrought out success through their own efforts and energies, followed likewise the directing guidance of a mother they fairly worshipped.

Today they may truly "rise and call her blessed," for unto them she has been a devoted, adoring mother, who has placed their feet on the solid ground, and pointed to the

“straight and narrow” path that has led to righteous living, earnest endeavor, and sure success.

Their sorrow is great, and their hearts are heavy, but they have the consolation that comes with the consciousness that an entire community shares their grief with them, and tenders deep and heartfelt sympathy.

Thus a good life has ended after three score years and ten, Mary O. Coldren has gone to her reward.

Thus a life has ended here after more than three score years of sacred service to God and His best beloved, the “common people,” of whom Abraham Lincoln declared the Creator must have loved them best, since of them He created most.

It was a life that radiated sunshine; ennobled a self-abnegation; and idealized Charity—which is but another name of Love.

Mary O. Coldren sleeps; her earthly labors are ended; but a loving, grateful community, remembering her service and her self-sacrifice; her goodness and her works of well-doing, will cherish her name and her memory in their hearts and souls for ever and aye.

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#### IDENTIFICATION OF THE OLD HUMMER BELL BY THE LATE GENERAL CHARLES W. IRISH OF IOWA CITY, IOWA

By ELIZABETH IRISH

In 1895 General Charles W. Irish (a son of Captain F. M. Irish), of the United States Office of Irrigation Inquiry, Washington, D. C., and his daughter, Elizabeth, were traveling through the West in the interest of the Agricultural Bureau, making a study of crops, soil and locations for United States reservoirs. When in Utah he made the acquaintance of a large number of pioneer Mormons and in



GENERAL CHARLES W. IRISH  
Who Identified "Hummer's Bell"



conversation with these people he mentioned pioneer days, and related to them what he remembered regarding their crossing Iowa on their way across the plains to the Golden West and the taking of the noted "Hummer bell". They became very much interested in this bell story and asked if he had any means by which he could identify the bell. Mr. Irish stated that he had seen the bell many times, and that the name of the foundry and city were stamped on the bell. They stated to Mr. Irish that they had an old bell which Brigham Young had brought across the plains with him, and that it was stored in an outbuilding in connection with the Tithing House. They invited General Irish and his daughter, Elizabeth, to meet them at the Tithing House the next day and they would with him examine the bell, and see if it contained the marks he had stated were on the old "Hummer Bell". The bell was brought forth and then men all armed with magnifying glasses, soon found the name of the foundry and city which General Irish had told them was imprinted on the bell. After the identification, General Irish asked for their history of the bell. They stated it was first used for church purposes, and to call the workmen to their work each day—and in later years when Brigham Young built a private school house for his own children, the bell was placed in a cupola on it and was used to call the children to school. When their new school house was built, the old bell was retired to the Tithing House, and was almost forgotten; when the General's history of the bell was given them it brought the historic bell back into the world again, and it immediately became more valuable to the Mormons than at first—love nor money could not obtain it from them at that time—but these old pioneers gave the General their word of honor, stating when all the old pioneer Mormons had passed away, the bell, of course, would not be of interest to the younger generation, and that they would consent to have the "Hummer Bell" pass to the General or his daughter.

On February 7, 1911, the Old Mormon Tithing House at Salt Lake City was remodelled and the contents thereof scattered and the old "Hummer Bell" was then placed in the "Mormon Historical Chamber" of that city, where it can now be viewed by interested visitors.

I have my doubts if this bell will ever leave its present ownership, as the pioneer Mormons and younger generation, since the identification of the "Hummer Bell" by Gen. Charles W. Irish, have become so interested in this pioneer relic I do not believe I could induce them to keep the promise made by the Bishop, who was present, when Mr. Irish identified the bell.

I quote from a letter from a Mormon friend who obtained the following picture of the old "Hummer Bell" for me: "You may be sure if anyone gets that bell, it will be Miss Elizabeth Irish."

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### HUMMER'S BELL

By SAMUEL MAGILL

The Presbyterian church, pretty high in the steeple,  
That bell was held in high esteem by all who heard it sound:  
It rung so loud it could be heard for many miles around.

The minister who labored there did not exactly suit:  
The people thought they'd let him slide, but he was rather  
cute.

He did not get his salary for which they had agreed,  
And he was bound to have it, and he knew he could succeed.

And he formed a plan which to Margrave he did tell:  
He would ascend the steeple, and let down the handsome  
bell.

He put up a long ladder, went up to the steeple door,  
And the bell came down with a rush and landed on the floor.



THE FAMOUS HUMMER BELL



Then came on his trouble: the ladder was taken away,  
And he was up in the steeple—and there he had to stay.  
He preached a louder sermon than he ever preached before,  
Which pleased those who heard him, for they all laughed  
the more.

VanFleet sent up a wagon, and the bell was loaded in;  
And the driver never thought he had committed a sin.  
He took the bell to a rapid creek, and sunk it very deep;  
And there it stayed for months, while Hummer was left to  
weep.

And when the crowd dispersed, Margrave put up the ladder:  
Then Hummer hurried down, and no man was ever madder.  
And when he found the bell was gone—just spirited away—  
He knew his case was hopeless, and he had no more to say.

That night the people assembled at the Crummey hotel,  
Where Hummer, Margrave and Clark were planning to get  
the bell.

Magill was then elected to demand the missing arm:  
He told them to give it up, or the crowd might do them  
harm.

They all declared they did not know where it could be found,  
For none of them had seen the arm while they were moving  
around.

The committee then reported just what it had to tell:  
That the missing arm was lost of the famous Hummer Bell.

Next day they made an effort, and searched the country  
round:

But they never struck the trail where the bell could be found.  
They lost all their labor in their hunting exploration,  
And then gave up the chase as a useless operation.

The Spiritualists were called on for a revelation,  
To point out the very place of the lost bell's location:  
Six miles west it would be found, in the bottom of a well.  
But Hummer was disappointed; he did not find the bell.

Some sordid men then stole the bell, and took it to Salt Lake,  
And sold it to the Mormon Church, for filthy lucre's sake;  
And it is in their Temple now, as every Saint can tell,  
For they have heard the ringing sound of the great Hum-  
mer Bell.

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### GRANDMOTHER'S QUILT

Contributed by ELIZABETH IRISH

The following poem was dedicated to Mrs. Margaret Mendenhall, a grand pioneer lady who came to Iowa seventy-six years ago. She has exhibited great skill and art in piecing twenty-six silk quilts at the age of ninety-one years for her grandchildren.

“Blocks of yellow and red and blue,  
And brown and checkered and figured, too;  
Pieced in a pattern prim and straight,  
Section to section, a perfect mate.  
Never a seam with a slighted space,  
Never a rough or a gathered place.  
Carefully wrought, and fair to see—  
Grandmother’s quilt, come down to me.

“Stitches even and short and fine,  
Set in a straight unbroken line;  
Each thread knotted with zealous care,  
Each seam fastened to hold and wear.  
Work of a wrinkled, trembling hand,  
But carefully fashioned, as first was planned,  
Fraught with a message, may it be,  
Grandmother’s quilt, that comes to me.

“Just a whisper of quiet days,  
Of humble duties and lowly ways;  
Of life as swerveless and fine and true,  
As these wondrous blocks of brown and blue,  
Of something better than social foam,  
The quiet hours in a well-kept home;  
Of lasting worth, may thy teachings be—  
Grandmother’s quilt, come down to me.”

WILLIAM MEAD, Grandson.  
Los Angeles, Cal.

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## FINAL TRIBUTE PAID TO SION HILL

(From the *Daily Press*)

Sion Hill was born in Johnston County, North Carolina, on Oct. 15, 1820, and died at the home of his son Oliver C. Hill, 728 Clark Street, Iowa City, on Aug. 14, 1916—at the age of 95 years, 9 months, and 29 days.

The funeral services were held on Wednesday, Aug. 16, at 2:30 p. m., at the Methodist church, three miles east of Iowa City. Rev. George Kee conducted the exercises. It was particularly “meet, fitting and proper” that this edifice should be the scene of the last sad rites, inasmuch as Mr. Hill had helped to erect it, in 1855, and with his own hands had helped to mould the brick of which it is constructed.

He was laid to rest in the Brick Chapel cemetery, in Scott Township, and there today sleeps all that is mortal of one of the most remarkable pioneers of Johnson County.

He was the oldest son born to Green and Nancy Sneed Hill, who came to Iowa Territory in 1838, and a brother of the late James Hill who resided in pioneer days north of Iowa City on the Dubuque road and kept “The Five Mile House.”

Sion Hill was the last man of the settlers who came hither in 1838. Of him there might be written a noteworthy little

history. He was one of the men to help survey the ground for the present Iowa City. He helped to set the large corner stone on Summit Street that marked the southeast corner of the city in the first survey of one mile square. He plowed the first lot that was ever plowed in Iowa City. This was located just west of what is now the site of the Iowa City-Cedar Rapids interurban station. This belonged at one time to Jesse Berry.

Mr. Hill drove the first team over what is now known as the "Iowa City to Rochester Road." This embraced two oxen hitched to a log about thirty feet long, which was dragged over the prairie to mark a trail to a little grist mill some distance east of where Rochester now stands. He was compelled to go thither to get corn ground, in order to secure meal for the family's bread.

In the summer of 1838 he built, for his father, a log house, the first house ever erected in Scott Township, on what is known as the "Old Green Hill Farm" three miles northeast of Iowa City.

Mr. Hill was the last survivor of a company of thirteen families, consisting of fifty-one persons, men, women, and children, who started from South Bend, Ind., on April 1, 1838, bound for the then almost unknown Iowa territory.

He was the second man in that great little group to set foot on Iowa soil. The first was Joseph Stover, father of the late J. Y. Stover.

In this company were the heads and members of the Stover, Hill, Miller, Ward, McGruder, Sweet, Smith, Ralston, Garner, Kelso, Ritter, Harris, and Swarts families.

These fifty-one sturdy souls crossed the Mississippi River on a little flatboat at a place called Wyoming. It required three days for all to make the crossing. That memorable voyage was made on May 5, 6, and 7. Three more days were devoted to traveling to their stopping place—Meyers' Trading House, on the east bank of the Iowa River, a few miles south of the present site of Iowa City.

To reach Iowa City, Mr. Hill, then a youth of not quite eighteen, made a wonderful journey. Walking the whole distance from South Bend, Ind., to the Iowa River, he drove two yoke of oxen, hitched to a wagon, wherein rode his parents and other members of the family.

Shortly after he had attained his majority, he "started for himself," working where he could find a day's labor—making rails (for the munificent remuneration of fifty cents a hundred), chopping wood (at thirty-five cents per cord), or anything else that presented itself to his strong and sturdy hands to do. Thus toiling, he accumulated in due time the "vast fortune of \$15." Then he contracted for his first important real estate investment—purchasing forty acres of Uncle Sam's land, paying the government \$1.25 per acre for it. To this he added from time to time until he had accumulated two hundred acres of choice farm land in Scott Township.

On Jan. 18, 1842, he was married to Miss Phoebe Jones, the daughter of Charles and Phoebe Workman Jones, the Rev. James L. Thompson, pastor of the M. E. church, officiating. To this union were born three sons and three daughters of whom only one son and one daughter survive. They are Oliver C. Hill of Iowa City and Mrs. Henry Mette of Texas.

Mrs. Hill, his wife, passed away on May 12, 1888. At that time he disposed of his farm to his children and thereafter made his home with them.

Mr. Hill was a self-made man. He lacked educational advantages, but conquered many obstacles, and displayed rare mental qualifications that were envied by many men, to whom "book learning" was permitted by a kindly fate. He was a lifelong Republican and voted the Republican ticket from the time of William H. Harrison, the ninth President of the United States, to the election of William Howard Taft. Since then he has taken no active part in public life.

Thus almost a century of life, seventy-eight years of which were spent in or near the Athens of Iowa, this worthy pioneer, blazer of trails, and builder of city, county and State, is no more. He has been called to the Great Beyond, from the community that he watched develop from a wilderness to a beautiful and rich city.

Mourning him deeply and sincerely, with his son and daughter, twelve grandchildren, and twenty-six great grandchildren, there are innumerable friends and acquaintances.

For many years this venerable pioneer has been an annual attendant at the Old Settlers' Association picnic. The old settlers and younger generation will mourn the loss of their pioneer friend and companion, Sion Hill.

“ 'Tis hard to break the tender cord  
When love has bound the heart.  
'Tis hard, so hard, to speak the words,  
'We must forever part.' ”

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### IN MEMORIAM

By ELIZABETH IRISH

Mrs. Margaret Tucker, wife and widow of James Tucker, was born in Butler County, Ohio, November 6, 1815; she died April 14, 1915, at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Jacob Kloos, Iowa City, Iowa, at the ripe old age of one hundred years (lacking a few months). Her husband died fourteen years ago at the age of ninety-one. She was a proud mother of six children, James Tucker, John Tucker, Alson Tucker, Mrs. Peter Kloos, Mrs. Will Ford, and Mrs. Jacob Kloos, and seven grandchildren, Mrs. Charles Zager, Mrs. H. S. Denton, Arthur Kloos, Ida Seydel, Albert Kloos, Fred Kloos, and Robert Tucker, all of whom survive her.

Mrs. Tucker had resided in Johnson County since 1843.



MRS. MARGARET TUCKER



Her life going back nearly a century, almost tells the story of the life of a Nation, while her residence in this State, three-quarters of a century, dates back to the time when it was wild and uninhabited.

She was a woman of sweet temper and the graces which go to make the life of a woman and to constitute the charm of a home. She was calm and patient, meeting the real shocks and bearing the burdens of pioneer life with courage and fortitude that never complained.

So our pioneer mothers are passing away, of those who were with her in early days but few are left, soon all will be gone, and the perils they knew, the privations they braved, the happiness and pleasures that glinted like sunbeams through all, will be fireside traditions, tales told to the third and fourth generations.

Mrs. Tucker was laid to rest April 16, 1915, beside her husband in the Grout Cemetery southwest of Iowa City. So closed a long active life of our pioneer friend and neighbor Mrs. Margaret Tucker.

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Contributed by ELIZABETH IRISH

ROMA WHEELER WOODS

Letter from Roma Wheeler Woods, a beloved pioneer of Iowa City, who passed away in Sutherland, Iowa, after a long life of noble service.

Sutherland, Iowa, Sept. 1, 1915.

MISS ELIZABETH IRISH,

Iowa City, Iowa.

My dear Miss Irish:—

I was very glad to receive your prospectus. I enclose a notice that I gave of it in our town paper. It was generous of you to give the scholarship to the State. I made especial

appeal to our district to be sure to call their attention to it, and to our local paper. I have often wondered just who you were. The name Irish has a peculiar appeal to me associated as it was with the first years of my married life in Iowa City. I did not know Captain Irish nor his wife so very well, but was always interested in them. I remember Mrs. Irish as a quiet, dignified, stately woman with her Quaker speech. I was always a little in awe of her—I knew she was a fine housekeeper while I was only a novice. I used to see the boys as they led their father about town after he became blind. The last time that I saw them we invited them over to a "squirrel supper," which the Captain at least seemed to enjoy. Well, I am glad to have come in a little closer touch to know more about your work, which is surely fine. Glad to have your picture which mounted I will have upon the mantel, so that I can as opportunity occurs talk about you and your school. I have so longed to go to the Iowa City Old Settlers' Picnic but have never been able to do so. My husband was always so attached to the place where his boyhood was spent. I should be glad to hear from you again.

Very sincerely,

ROMA WHEELER WOODS.

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IN MEMORIAM  
MRS. ROMA WHEELER WOODS

(From *Sutherland Courier Journal*)

Roma Wheeler Woods was born in Perrysburg, Ohio, March 16, 1835. Died at her home in Sutherland, Iowa, February 29, 1916, and laid to rest in Waterman cemetery beside her beloved husband.

In 1853 she came to Davenport, Iowa, with her parents,

crossing the Mississippi River from Moline in skiffs. On Sept. 4, 1855, at her home in Davenport, she was married to William Huston Woods, of Iowa City. To this union two children were born, Martha Roma, who died at the age of six years, and Houston Clay, who died in 1890 at the age of 32. Her husband passed away in 1909 in Atlanta, Georgia, at the home of a nephew, W. Woods White.

Their first home was in Iowa City, which was then the capital of the State. Mrs. Woods was assured by Iowa legislators that her songs were no small factor in securing the passage of the first Iowa temperance laws. During the Civil War she was an active member of the Army Aid Society of Davenport which did much to relieve the suffering of the soldiers and their families.

In 1869 she came with her husband and son to O'Brien County.

In 1874 Mr. Woods established a library in their log cabin home. Mrs. Woods was the librarian and the books Mr. and Mrs. Woods had in their private library became the nucleus of the present library of Sutherland. It was a subscription library, some of the subscribers living twenty-two miles away. Into this home came the first piano of the county. Here was organized the first literary society, the tax payers' league and tax payers' association.

Mrs. Woods was district chairman of the I. T. W. C. of the Eleventh District for four years, where she established the scholarship fund, before it was adopted by the State. She was for three years chairman of the Eleventh District Political Equality Clubs and edited the *Standard*, the State paper.

She was also president of the W. R. C. four years and held the office of president in the various clubs of Sutherland, and in her death the clubs have lost an ever ready and helpful friend.

Her work on earth is ended. Today she sings with the angelic hosts of heaven.

**WILLIAM J. FELKNER**

By RUTH IRISH PRESTON

The late William J. Felkner lived nearly sixty-four years. He was born on a farm in the vicinity of Iowa City, July 18, 1852. He died at his home, 810 Kirkwood Ave., Iowa City, Iowa, May 11, 1916. He was the third son of Henry and Elizabeth Felkner, prominent pioneers of Iowa. The Felkner family is of German and Scotch descent and for several generations, on the mother's side, had been members of the Quaker faith. They came from Ohio into Iowa soon after the Blackhawk Purchase was thrown open for settlement and brought with them an inherited veneration for those forms of free government so aptly expressed by Manasseh Cutler in the "Bill of Rights" for the North West Territory.

William Felkner was educated in the schools of Iowa City, and on a farm in Johnson County he early learned to practice those sterling virtues of honesty, industry and economy for which his forebears were justly celebrated, and while yet young he courageously assumed his share of the many tasks that rural life in a pioneer community then presented.

He inherited generously of those virtues and characteristics which go far toward making the man to whom the world looks for leadership and guidance. But Mr. Felkner rested not on his heritage, pardonably proud though he was of it. By service, by pure living, by rare tenderness toward human needs he made himself a power for great good in the community and won for himself the love and esteem of all who in any way had the good fortune to know him.

Like his father, the late Henry Felkner, William was stalwart in form, large hearted and kindly, and practiced ever in all his relations with men, a justice and mercy that never misled.

As a true son of a pioneer, he was ever deeply interested



HON. WILLIAM J. FELKNER



in the history and development of his native State and justly proud of the part his parents had taken in its up-building. His father had been one of Johnson County's earliest settlers, one of the organizers and law givers of the State of Iowa, and of him it has been said by one of his noble associates that "He was a typical pioneer. Who that has looked upon his giant form, crowned by a face limned in benignity and strength, can forget him!" This man of strength, of courage, of ability and honor—this pioneer Henry Felkner, came into the wilderness of Iowa then known as the Blackhawk Purchase as early as 1837 accompanied by two others of our celebrated and greatly beloved pioneers, Philip Clark and Eli Myers. These brave young men, joined by a few others of like courage and foresight, came into this region when the Indian trails and the rivers were the only highways of communication, and settling on the western edge of the Purchase, set to work at once to lay the foundation of the future State of Iowa. By peaceful though strenuous labor they in a few years wrought marvellous changes in the community that had but recently been a wilderness inhabited only by the Indian and the trapper. By the hands of these pioneers, the Indian trails of this vicinity were widened and along their deep cut banks the wigwams were giving way to the settlers' cabins. Meanwhile the tomahawk and scalping knife were being sheathed and the breaking plow and other instruments of peaceful husbandry were transforming the prairies into cultivated fields.

In 1843 Mr. Felkner returned to his boyhood home in Ohio and claimed for his bride the sweet young Quakeress, Elizabeth Lewis, the choice of his youthful heart. Elizabeth was the daughter of Enoch Lewis and Mourning, his wife, and she was possessed of many virtues and graces inherited from a long line of noble and talented ancestry from which she sprang.

Bravely, heroically, the young bride bade farewell to

parents and friends and turning her back upon the familiar scenes of her childhood she accompanied her husband to the home he had prepared for her far to the westward, beyond the Mississippi. Thus, in 1843, some time yet ere Iowa had blossomed into statehood, did this young couple come to the banks of the beautiful Iowa and thereon establish a home which, from that day to this, has been celebrated far and near for radiating "that silent influence for good that has ever gone with those of that faith." Famed also was that home as a center of sociability, culture and charming good fellowship and it is a sweet memory of our pioneers, oft repeated by them and their descendants, that "Over its threshold none ever passed without receiving the pleasant salutation, 'Thou art welcome.' "

To be born into such a home and to inherit largely of splendid characteristics from parents so renowned for many virtues was the great good fortune of our friend the late William J. Felkner, and that he so lived as to pass along unsullied to his descendants this blessed inheritance is the testimony of all who knew him. Public spirited in a high degree and with rare good business judgment, he, like his father, gave generously of his time and thought to public affairs and he was frequently called upon to fill offices of trust other than those pertaining to his private business. He was a lifelong Democrat and one of the leaders of his party, being twice chosen to represent Cedar County in the General Assembly. During his tenure of office Mr. Felkner was an active member of many standing committees, prominent among which were "Judicial Districts," "Schools," "Board of Public Charities," "Soldiers' Orphans' Home," "Institution for Feeble Minded," "Compensation of Public Officers," "Retrenchment and Reform," "Appropriations," "Claims," "Banks and Banking," "Public Lands," "Buildings," "Elections," and various others equally important.

Early in his young manhood he established a grain ele-

vator at Downey, Cedar County, Iowa, and at this important shipping point he made his home and for a number of years was an energetic leader in the business of the community. Here in 1872 he married Miss Jessie Work, the talented daughter of John Work and Lydia, his wife, Boston people who being attracted by the glories of the Great West had come to Iowa in 1861. To William and Jessie Felkner were born seven children, of whom John, Jessie and Iowa died in infancy. Later an adopted daughter Margaret was added to the household.

Mr. and Mrs. William Felkner were both noted for their deep sympathies and broad charities. They worked much together in alleviating the sufferings of the unfortunate about them, doing all in so quiet and unostentatious a way that outsiders seldom realized who the Good Samaritans had been. While yet a busy man, though beginning to feel the touch of that relentless disease which finally overpowered him, Mr. Felkner removed to Iowa City to spend his declining years and to give to his children the advantages of the University town. Here in the home of his youth where his talents for public service were so well known he was soon chosen to be a member of the city school board. In spite of failing health and pressure of business Mr. Felkner responded to the call and served with distinction on this board for a term of years, being its president during a part of the time. It was during these years of his service that the reorganization of the Iowa City schools began: reorganization not alone to effect new buildings and equipment but also to enlarge and extend the scope of instruction to suit the demands and ideals of the present day.

Beside his deeply bereaved family Mr. Felkner left a large circle of friends both young and old to mourn his passing. Especially saddened by his death are the hearts of the "Old Settlers" of Johnson County, for to them he was as a brother and they will sadly miss from their organizations his comradeship and good cheer.

The members of Mr. Felkner's family who survive him are his widow, Mrs. Jessie Work Felkner, and his four daughters, Mrs. H. C. Coffeen of Chicago, Mrs. Anne F. Hall and Miss Margaret of Iowa City, Miss Wilma Felkner of New York City, and his son, William W. Felkner, of Iowa City. Mrs. E. C. Haynes of Centerville, Iowa, the Misses Elizabeth and Rachel Felkner of Iowa City, and Clinton Felkner of Eldorado, Kansas, are the sisters and brothers of the deceased.

To all of these whose hearts are so sorely stricken comes the consolation of knowing that the life of him whom they mourn was a well ordered one, his more than three score years being filled with achievement and well rounded out by devotion to duty; and it has indeed the calm beauty of

“A life that stands as all true lives have stood,  
Firm-rooted in the faith that God is Good.”

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### JACOB Y. STOVER

Jacob Y. Stover, one of the oldest of Johnson County pioneers, passed away at his home in Iowa City on June 30, 1916. He was ninety-two years, ten months, and twenty-six days old.

Mr. Stover came to Johnson County with his parents, Joseph and Esther (Yount) Stover, when he was but fifteen years of age, or seventy-seven years ago.

He was born in Wayne County, Indiana, August 4, 1823, but his parents moved to Iowa soon after. In 1838 the family came to Johnson County, after a long and tedious journey over the unbroken wilderness.

In 1849, hearing of the wonders of the lands of the west, Mr. Stover responded to the call of the wild and the lure of adventure and set out with some others on a long and tedi-

ous journey across the plains for California. He arrived there only after numerous hardships and adventures, remaining for three years. Returning he farmed for a year, then entered the wholesale grocery business, only to be a victim of the "wild-cat" money times.

In 1852 he again started for California, again enduring many hardships and encountering many dangers before reaching the "golden west." He intended to remain this time for good, but after three years he received word from his father, who was then getting very old, asking him to return. Having prospered in the west, he returned to the Stover homestead in Johnson County in 1855 where he remained until 1896, when he retired from farm life and moved to Iowa City.

Mr. Stover was married in 1863 to Susan R. Switzer, who survives him. Eight children were born to this union, six of whom are still living. They are S. Emma and Bessie E. Stover, both of Iowa City; Grant Stover of Burlington; Charles C. Stover of Milk River, Alberta, Canada; J. Edwin Stover of Davenport; and Samuel K. Stover of Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Mr. Stover was a member of the Republican party and a consistent member of the Methodist church.

At the time of his death Mr. Stover was one of three survivors of the pioneer settlers of Johnson County who came in 1838. Mr. Stover attended the first wedding in Johnson County and traveled three days through the wilderness to secure a minister of the Gospel to perform the ceremony.

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**1524725****IN MEMORIAM**

Contributed by **ELIZABETH IRISH**

Attorney Louis H. Jackson, a pioneer lawyer of Iowa City, died in Los Angeles, May 25, 1916. For a number of years he practiced law in Iowa City, being a member of the

firm of Boal & Jackson. Over twenty years ago Attorneys Boal and Jackson moved to Denver, Colorado, where they practiced law until Mr. Boal's death; he then moved to Los Angeles, California.

Mr. Jackson took a most active part in the business and professional life of Iowa City; he was for a number of years a member of the school board and also served faithfully as superintendent of the Presbyterian Sunday School of this city.

The home of Mr. Jackson was in Hemet, California, but he died in Los Angeles. His remains were brought to Iowa City for burial and the funeral services took place at the home of his brother-in-law, Lemuel Hunter, the Rev. Dr. Wylie officiating.

Mr. Jackson is survived by his wife, Virginia McCrory Jackson, and one son, Lewis; also by two brothers and three sisters. He has numerous relatives in Iowa City and Johnson County.

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Contributed by ELIZABETH IRISH

AN APPRECIATION OF MRS. THOS. C. CARSON

By Jno. P. IRISH

Mrs. Carson was perhaps the last Iowa City matron of her time. Her residence in the Old Capital began back in the primitive and splendid days when pioneer conditions and traditions were yet the impulse of the spirit of our people. Within the city then were Mesdames Reno, Culbertson, Downey, Dey, Myers, Fracker, Ransom, Edwards and other members of a group of rare women and in the country were other fine women and fair, the farmers' wives, all members of the same social community, in a time when society had not put on the artificial and had not lost the wholesome and natural ways of the frontier.

Of most gracious and engaging personality, Mrs. Carson may well be described as a lady of the old school,—considerate, gentle, dignified.

Here her life passed to prime and its gracious age. Here she bore the sorrows and bereavements that are the common lot, and supported them with high-souled faith and philosophy.

Here she enjoyed the final felicity of a mother, in seeing her surviving children shape their lives and conduct by her example and become respected figures.

Steadfast in her friendships and loyal to her high ideals, she passed peacefully to rest, meriting whatever beatitudes may lie beyond for the true and the faithful.

Oakland, Calif., July 6, 1915.

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Contributed by **ELIZABETH IRISH**

**DR. LEORA JOHNSON**

(From *Daily Press*)

Dr. Leora Johnson, one of Iowa City's most prominent and most highly-esteemed women, passed away December 28, 1915, at her home at 22 North Clinton Street.

She was born in Iowa City and had lived here all her life and had gathered a large circle of friends about her who will deeply mourn her untimely death.

Dr. Johnson was prominent in medical circles, having been a graduate of the Homeopathic College of Medicine in 1890, and was for many years clinical anaesthetist at the Homeopathic Hospital here. She also was in charge of the diseases of children at the same hospital formerly. She also enjoyed a large practice here.

Late in October she was appointed lady humane officer for Iowa City by the city solons, and was installed in her

office on Oct. 29th. She had the honor of being the first lady humane officer, or woman policeman, in the State of Iowa.

Her father, Sylvanus Johnson, was one of the most prominent pioneers of the county. The south window in the Baptist church in this city was a memorial to Dr. Johnson's father and mother and their deceased children and a gift from the noble woman who passed away last evening.

Dr. Johnson was a faithful church member, being allied with the Baptist church of this city. She was a sister of Homer S. Johnson of this city, who survives her.

Her life was a busy one and it has been crowned with no little success, and she leaves scores of friends who will tender sympathy to those bereaved by her departure to the Great Beyond.

Rev. C. H. Berry of the Baptist church conducted the funeral services. Interment was made in the family lot at Oakdale Cemetery.

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## NECROLOGICAL REPORT

By MRS. GILBERT R. IRISH

AUGUST, 1914

	AGE	DATE	MARGARET SMITH O'BRION DIED AT
John Kriel .....	71	23	Castle Rock, Colorado. Her mother
Mrs. Pleasant O'Brion.....	78	12	was a sister of Philip Clark, one of
			the first settlers of Johnson County.

### SEPTEMBER, 1914

Mrs. Arthur Medowell.....	64	—	Mrs. Hiram Toms.....	69	19
John Lalla .....	54	6	Hugh Owen .....	55	25

### OCTOBER, 1914

Mrs. Joseph Studer.....	59	4	George Rider .....	64	18
Frank Anderson .....	45	9	Abraham Plum .....	71	20
Mrs. Joseph Hradek .....	76	9	Jacob Neumier .....	64	28
Mrs. Mary Hinman.....	86	17	Mrs. Margaret Moore.....	90	26
Robert Graham .....	69	19	Bert Sangster .....	46	29

NOVEMBER, 1914

	AGE	DATE		AGE	DATE
Fred Bock .....	55	1	Mrs. Margaret Shrader .....	68	22
Mrs. John Wagner.....	65	4	Mrs. Michael Donahue .....	76	27
Mrs. Richard Hoxie.....	67	21	Mrs. Anna Silbernagle .....	81	29
Albert Strub .....	54	7	Mrs. John McCrory .....	—	29
Mrs. Lemuel Hunter.....	72	17	Mrs. A. F. Weeber .....	39	24
Mrs. J. B. Daniels.....	89	25			

DECEMBER, 1914

Charles A. Rogers .....	56	1	J. H. C. Wilson.....	70	16
Mrs. Rose Kintz Smith.....	65	2	George Anderson .....	67	15
Mrs. W. P. Coast.....	72	14	Robert Berryhill .....	—	27
Mrs. Julia Parrott Teneick	62	20	Mrs. Mary D. Folsom.....	95	22
Mrs. Mary Jane Mullen....	78	23	Mrs. Charlotte Conrad Brown	74	30
Mrs. L. G. Lawyer .....	43	24	Mrs. Ellen Jordan .....	71	30
John Stover .....	88	19	Horace L. Page.....	71	14

JANUARY, 1915

Samuel Spinden .....	82	8	Mrs. Mary O. Stevens Coldren	74	24
Mrs. Adam Schwimley .....	62	14	Mrs. Mary Corcran .....	81	24
Mrs. Caroline B. Koser .....	73	17	Miss Lucy Hemstead.....	71	30
Mrs. C. M. Hobby.....	67	18	John Hanley .....	53	31

FEBRUARY, 1915

Eckhardt Hormel .....	76	5	William Parrott .....	58	4
Mrs. Hester Weed.....	79	5	Elias Warren Patterson .....	88	1

MARCH, 1915

Mrs. Elizabeth Hursley Con- dora .....	105	2	Henry Berger .....	84	13
Mrs. J. W. Rich.....	72	10	Mr. Wm. P. Coast.....	74	21
Francis Johnson .....	71	16	John Lindsay Varner.....	75	24
Timothy Fairchild .....	78	15	Peter Kloos .....	74	24
Mrs. Antone Linder .....	83	18	John N. McComas.....	68	—
Mrs. William Hopp .....	85	18	Mrs. Philip B. Macbride....	27	30

APRIL, 1915

Edward Murphy .....	44	3	Harvey Rogers .....	46	28
Mrs. J. G. Sperry.....	87	7	Ezra Owen .....	74	14
Mrs. Martha Marshall .....	76	6	John Parrott .....	58	17
John Unrath .....	48	9	Mrs. Lydia Ulch.....	92	27
Jacob G. Beck.....	58	7	Theodore M. Davis.....	85	23
Mrs. Margaret Tucker .....	99	14	Mrs. Avis Hindman.....	89	6
James N. Burge.....	67	14	Widow of Rev. John Hindman		
Mrs. P. Roessler.....	—	24			

## MAY, 1915

	AGE	DATE		AGE	DATE
Philip Eberle .....	70	4	Emlin McClain .....	64	24
Mrs. Alice O'Reiley.....	46	1	Cyrus S. Ranck.....	70	24
Conrad Hormel .....	76	10			

## JUNE, 1915

William W. W. Kirkwood..	82	11	Mrs. Josephine Mary Carson	80	24
Mrs. Eli Bell .....	79	13	Widow of Thos. Carson		
Mrs. Anna B. Conklin.....	60	13	John Wesley Templin.....	73	28
Mr. Frank Horack.....	71	18	Dennis Murphy .....	92	30
Wilbur D. Cannon.....	75	22			

## JULY, 1915

Mrs. Addie Louis .....	69	9	George W. Ball, Sr.....	68	18
Mrs. Josephine Sook .....	70	13	Samuel Bradley .....	86	19
Joseph Vevra .....	74	11	Carver Thompson .....	91	31
D. K. Shaver.....	93	15	Wm. Strubel .....	24	3
W. H. Buchanan.....	64	14	Rev. Francis J. Ward.....	62	26

## AUGUST, 1915

Abraham Martin .....	75	21	Mrs. Julia Strub .....	93	28
William H. Murphy.....	60	23	Mrs. F. M. Krup.....	61	28
Mrs. Dr. M. Young.....	60	24	George Sanders .....	78	25
Wm. Hauber, Sr.....	76	11	Charles Murry .....	70	27

## SEPTEMBER, 1915

Frank Louis .....	49	5	Walter Freeman .....	38	27	
Mrs. Anna Fitzpatrick .....	70	5	Mr. Joseph Warren.....	74	28	
Mrs. Elizabeth Augustine ..	86	9	Abner Graham .....	61	21	
Miss Dorothy M. Holubar...	13	2	Resident of Graham Township, Johnson County; number of years store-keeper at Morse, Iowa.			
Geo. Attig .....	80	12				
Mrs. Russel Green.....	21	30				

## OCTOBER, 1915

Joseph Bauer .....	57	2	Hermon Boggs .....	65	21
Albert Fisher .....	61	2	Mrs. Anna M. Harrison.....	85	22
Norbet Prizler .....	85	6	Prof. W. A. Willis.....	77	22
William Hopp .....	83	6	Anthony Gallaugher .....	52	22
James V. Henick.....	72	7	Mrs. Priscilla F. Sharpless..	87	23
Mrs. J. F. Ramsey.....	70	9	Valentine Wieder .....	85	24
Asa D. Stiles.....	82	5	Hugh Lewis .....	25	24
Miss Jennie O'Hanlon.....	25	13	Son of Geo. Lewis		
J. W. Anderson.....	65	21	Choralista B. Smiley.....	—	—
Mrs. Thomas Murphy Fry..	62	20	Mrs. Mary Stover Ritter....	98	13

NOVEMBER, 1915

	AGE	DATE		AGE	DATE
Mrs. Henry Speight.....	83	1	William M. Hill.....	90	18
J. W. Clark.....	68	8	Mrs. Ed L. Crain.....	—	11
Gus Sievers .....	56	10	James Leighty .....	65	28
Mrs. Lucinda W. Drake.....	92	4	Phillip McDermott .....	75	20
Mrs. Josephine Henik.....	55	14	Dr. Calvin Starr.....	94	25

DECEMBER, 1915

Samuel Lininger .....	65	13	Mrs. Charles R. Kimball....	66	25
Mrs. Catherine Sueppel.....	80	15	Robert Shellady .....	50	30
John M. Thomas.....	66	18	Mrs. Mary E. Heck.....	70	29
Capt. Geo. R. Hall.....	75	19	C. B. McLaughlin.....	80	26
Mrs. Dr. Carder .....	50	18	Patrick O'Connor .....	40	27
William H. Miller.....	55	24	Mrs. Marie Kestner Kintz..	92	21
Charles H. Warner.....	43	27	John Ilick .....	76	23
Dr. Leora Johnson.....	66	28	Resident 62 years of the county.		
John Higgins .....	65	28			

JANUARY, 1916

Henry N. Berry.....	71	1	Mrs. Samuel Cozine.....	74	13
James Paintin .....	60	1	Ambrose Brown .....	66	16
William Henry Thompson ..	68	1	Frank Eicher .....	63	14
Miss Anna J. Leonard.....	56	3	Mrs. A. E. Underwood....	83	13
Mrs. Gill F. Paul.....	62	4	Mrs. Catharine Balluff ....	60	22
Mrs. Henry Hastings .....	82	6	Mrs. Emma Rugg Orison...	74	27
P. L. Connally.....	—	3	Frank J. Rittenmeyer.....	65	26
Mrs. Geo. Printz.....	70	4	Mrs. Antone Corso .....	47	27
George Printz .....	75	4	Mrs. Emily Winborn Weeks	83	18
Mrs. Catharine Lodge .....	—	3	Thomas Heenan .....	—	12
Mrs. Barbara Coufal .....	—	—	Mrs. Balthazer Degenhart ..	85	26
Robert Spencer .....	72	8	Mrs. J. W. Campbell.....	—	21

FEBRUARY, 1916

Guy Johnson .....	60	1	Mrs. Alice Ford Gearkee....	65	17
William Dalton .....	68	2	Dr. Henry Hertz.....	30	18
Mrs. Frank T. Breene.....	43	2	Henry Benner .....	62	18
Mrs. Elizabeth Sentman ..	—	2	E. P. Culver.....	50	22
Mrs. Ellen Edwards .....	71	3	Mrs. Mary Cannon .....	90	25
William Peters Hepburn ..	83	7	Mrs. John Keppler.....	57	28
Mrs. Elizabeth Dolby .....	87	9	Neé Emma Fieseler		
Resident 60 years			Mrs. Roma Wheeler Woods	81	29
Mrs. Vina Shafer .....	60	25	John Crow .....	56	27
Henry C. Waltman.....	64	14	Hiram Toms .....	76	25

## MARCH, 1916

	AGE	DATE		AGE	DATE
Glenn Robinson .....	38	2	Dan Bothel .....	77	21
Joseph Cabela .....	78	2	Albert Hubbard .....	90	20
Louis Marbel Hastings.....	79	5	Mrs. John Goody .....	85	20
Hugh D. Jones.....	64	4	Mrs. Mabel Foster Peet....	38	25
John W. Green.....	66	7	Mrs. Winfred Welton .....	27	22
John P. Marling.....	73	4	Frank Titus .....	64	23
Mrs. Theodore Buttles Davis	80	7	Frank Schlenk .....	37	20
Bradford Ferson .....	74	8	Mrs. Frank Worrell Slach...	28	19
Mrs. Michael Engelhardt					
Klenk .....	64	17			

## APRIL, 1916

Wm. A. Fry.....	74	8	William Schwab .....	72	1
Mrs. John Voparil.....	26	9	Mary Kathryn Denneny....	26	15
James Chansky .....	50	4	Virgil Hartsock .....	76	6
Mrs. E. J. Watkins.....	26	11	Joseph Schulze .....	90	16
Mrs. Pierce Wall .....	70	12	Mrs. Adaline Gibson .....	82	21
Mr. George Russel.....	70	12	Mrs. Mary Richter .....	82	26
Mrs. Mary S. Dobry.....	69	12	Mrs. William Roessler .....	36	26
Mrs. Edward Battle Murphy	49	13	L. F. Shoals.....	91	25

## MAY, 1916

C. Yetter .....	56	6	Miss Maria L. Hammer.....	95	28
Mrs. John Lloyd.....	50	6	Mrs. Catherine Douglas Clin-		
Hon. William J. Felkner....	55	12	ton .....	73	29
Mrs. Mary Liddle Luscombe	78	14	Otto Jensen .....	73	22
Samuel A. Myers.....	52	14	Frank J. Jordon.....	31	31
Mrs. Adeline Benner.....	64	18			

## JUNE, 1916

John Reynolds .....	75	9	Fredrick W. Upmeyer.....	75	17
Homer L. Swafford.....	67	10	Jacob Y. Stover.....	93	30
John Hands .....	63	24			

## JULY, 1916

Mrs. Euclid Sanders resided in Iowa City all her life.			Mrs. George Bradley .....	72	12
Mrs. Mary Terrell Sanders..	65	6	Mrs. Justina Mueller .....	62	20
Frank Reha .....	89	9	Mrs. Elizabeth Kurz .....	84	18
Resident 54 years			Harvey Chansky .....	21	23
Miss Anna C. Koza.....	36	8	Philip Vogel .....	74	26
James W. Huffman.....	80	10	Charles Oakes .....	83	20

## AUGUST, 1916

Sion Hill .....	95	14	Mrs. Laura Stiles Taylor...	31	17
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OFFICERS OF THE  
JOHNSON COUNTY OLD SETTLERS'  
ASSOCIATION

For the Year 1916

President .....	W. P. HOHENSCHUH
First Vice-President	MILTON REMLEY
Second Vice-President.....	W. T. PRATT
Secretary.....	H. J. WIENEKE
Treasurer.....	O. A. BYINGTON
Necrologist.....	MRS. G. R. IRISH

Executive Committee:

EMERY WESTCOTT	MISS ELIZABETH IRISH
S. C. JONES	JOHN MCCOLLISTER
J. J. METZGER	HORACE SANDERS

Date of Annual Meeting for 1916: September 14th

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